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JULY 7, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune publication

the OFFICE LIFE of PETS

'THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS' IS ALL ABOUT ANIMALS LEFT AT HOME ALL DAY, BUT AT SOME CHICAGO COMPANIES, PETS GET TO COME TO WORK, TOO ***PAGES 10-11***

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Feds look into fatal shooting by cops ***3***

How to feel about recent sports news ***6***

Kinmont has the best burger in town ***12***

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

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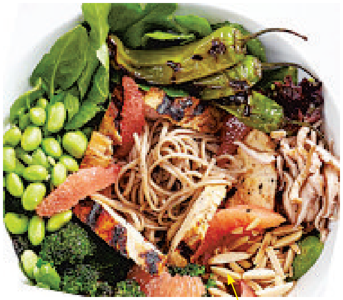

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6670 N. Northwest Highway
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The touring multimedia comedy show blends stand-up and posts Palmer has made on major companies’ Facebook pages while posing as a member of their customer service team. 8 p.m. $10. Tickets: **wiptheater.com/events/pictureshow**

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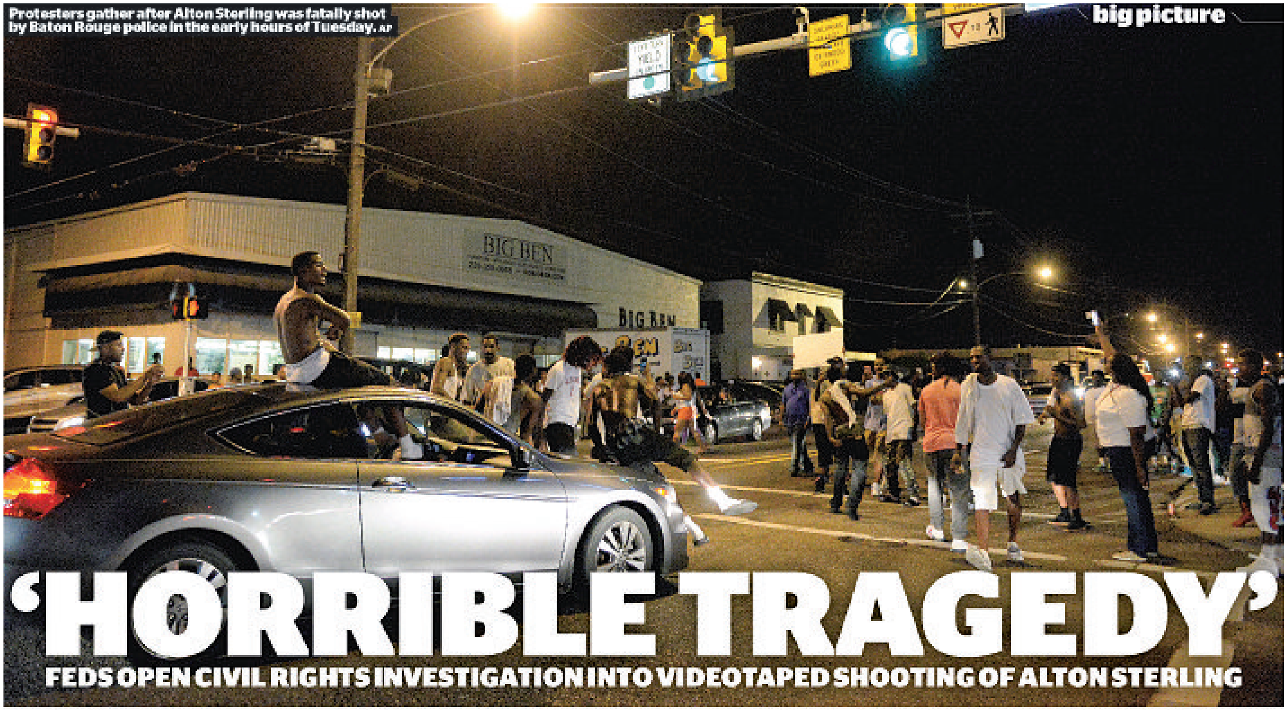

Protesters gather after Alton Sterling was fatally shot by Baton Rouge police in the early hours of Tuesday. AP

‘HORRIBLE TRAGEDY’

FEDS OPEN CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATION INTO VIDEOTAPED SHOOTING OF ALTON STERLING

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La.—In a swift move by authorities to keep tensions from boiling over, the U.S. Justice Department launched a civil rights investigation Wednesday into the video-recorded killing of a black man who was shot as he scuffled with two white police officers on the pavement outside a convenience store.

A law enforcement official said a gun was taken from 37-year-old Alton Sterling after he was killed early Tuesday in the parking lot where he regularly sold homemade music CDs from a folding table. The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

But it was not clear from the murky cellphone footage if Sterling had the gun in his hand or was reaching for it when he was shot. And a witness said he saw police pull a gun from Sterling’s pocket after the shooting.

The shooting in the Louisiana capital—and the shocking video that soon found its way all over the internet—set off angry protests in the city’s black community and brought calls for an outside investigation. It came at a time when law enforcement officers across the country are under close scrutiny over what some see as indiscriminate use of deadly force against black people.

Moving quickly just one day after the shooting, Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards asked the Justice Department to take the lead in the investigation.

“I have very serious concerns. The video is disturbing, to say the least,” the governor said at a news conference.

Edwards also met with black community leaders to reassure them about the investigation and to ask their help in keeping protests peaceful. He expressed hope that once the community sees that the shooting is “going to be investigated impartially, professionally and thoroughly” by the Justice Department, “the tensions will ease.”

> **“LIKE YOU, THERE IS A LOT THAT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND. AND AT THIS POINT, LIKE YOU, I AM DEMANDING ANSWERS.”**
>
> **—Baton Rouge Police Chief Carl Dabadie Jr.**

Baton Rouge Police Chief Carl Dabadie Jr. said that Sterling was armed—Dabadie didn’t specify the type of weapon—but that there are still questions about what happened.

“Like you, there is a lot that we do not understand. And at this point, like you, I am demanding answers,” Dabadie said, calling the shooting a “horrible tragedy.”

Sterling was confronted by police after an anonymous caller reported being threatened by someone with a gun outside the store, authorities said.

In the cellphone video taken by a community activist and posted online, one of the officers tackled Sterling, and the two officers pinned him to the pavement.

Someone yelled, “He’s got a gun! Gun!” and one officer pulled his weapon from his holster. After some shouting, what sounded like a gunshot could be heard. The camera pulled away before more shots were heard.

The officers, identified by the chief as Blane Salamoni, a four-year member of the department, and Howie Lake II, who has been on the force for three years, were placed on administrative leave, standard department procedure.

Authorities would not say whether one or both fired their weapons or how many times.

The store owner, Abdullah Muflahi, told The Advocate newspaper that Sterling was not holding a gun during the shooting but that he saw officers remove one from his pocket afterward. Muflahi said an officer fired four to six shots into Sterling’s chest.

Hundreds protested Tuesday night, and demonstrators gathered again on Wednesday.

Quinyetta McMillon, the mother of Sterling’s teenage son, trembled as she read a statement outside City Hall, where a few dozen protesters and community leaders had assembled. Her son, Cameron, 15, broke down in tears and was led away sobbing as his mother spoke.

She described Sterling as “a man who simply tried to earn a living to take care of his children.

“The individuals involved in his murder took away a man with children who depended upon their daddy on a daily basis,” she said.

A cousin of Sterling’s, Sharida Sterling, said he had been selling music there for about six years, often lugging his box of CDs, table and folding chair on two buses to get to the store.

Sharida Sterling said that the store management never had any problems with him but that he was often harassed by police—she suspected because he was black and a “big guy.”

Baton Rouge, a city of about 229,000, is 54 percent black, according to census data, and more than 25 percent of its people live in poverty.

Police said they have dash-cam video, body-cam video and store surveillance footage of the shooting that will be turned over to the Justice Department.

But Lt. Jonny Dunnam said the bodycam footage may not be as good as investigators hoped for because the cameras became dislodged during the scuffle.

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THE FALCON • JULIETTE LEWIS & THE LICKS • FRANK IERO AND THE PATIENCE • THE BRONX • POUYA • SWINGIN' UTTERS • DENZEL CURRY
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threesome

3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at **@redeyechicago** or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to **redeye@redeyechicago.com** with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

Dated this girl I met online, and we went on a few dates. She's definitely done nothing wrong but has been very clear she wants to see me ALL THE TIME. I just don't feel the same way and am ready to end things. I don't want to just cut her off completely. What's a good way to tell her "I'm not interested"? *—Question via Reddit, edited*

Shelbie Lynn Bostedt
Single, 22
» RedEye digital content coordinator
» @shelbielbostedt

I know it's the most clichéd piece of advice in the book, but be honest. If you're just not feeling it, you owe it to her to tell her sooner rather than later. While it may be awkward and uncomfortable to have to tell someone you're just not into them, it's easier than the pain they'd have to deal with of being dragged along if you keep on keepin' on. And whatever you do, don't ghost.

Courtney Jacquin
In a relationship, 24
» Writer, editor
» @courtneyjacquin

Besides yelling, "SLOW DOWN, CRAZY, SLOW DOWN," just be as forward as possible. That might be a little too forward, but just be straight-up and say, "Hey, you're a really cool girl, but this isn't what I'm looking for right now." It might hurt her feelings for a bit, especially if she's totally into you, but things will be much worse if you keep stringing her along when you're not interested whatsoever. The thing is, though, you're not friends, so please don't tell her, "Hey, let's stay friends!", because it's BS and never works. Even if you dig hanging out with her, things will get too complicated if she has feelings and you don't. So you might just have to cut your losses and cut it off completely, otherwise she might get the wrong idea and everyone will end up confused and sad.

Michelle Lopez
Married, 32
» RedEye digital editor
» @michelleglopez

Yikes. I know you mentioned that she didn't do anything wrong, but it's hard to not be a little scared off by someone who's seeming very clingy from the get-go. Sometimes people just don't jell together, and that's totally fine. It's great that you established that a few dates in, rather than waste your time—and hers. Now, you say you don't want to cut it off completely. Are you interested in a friendship with her? Don't offer it up if you don't mean it, she will most likely take you up on it. No? OK, then it's time to rip off the Band-Aid. Tell her you don't see much potential in you two as a couple. If that's too harsh and you want something less awkward, you could always say you're taking some time for yourself and pressing pause on online dating.

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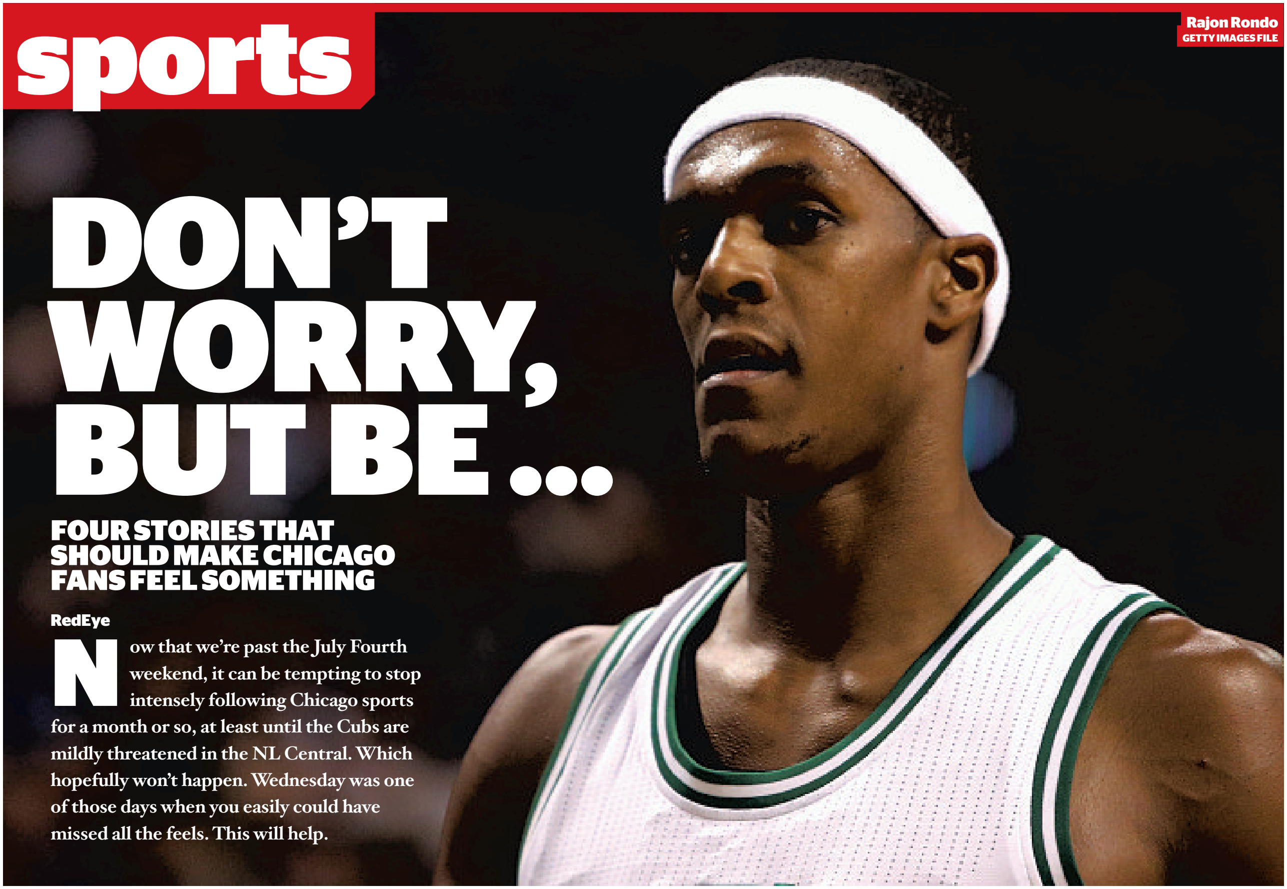

Rajon Rondo
GETTY IMAGES FILE

DON'T WORRY, BUT BE ...

FOUR STORIES THAT SHOULD MAKE CHICAGO FANS FEEL SOMETHING

RedEye

Now that we're past the July Fourth weekend, it can be tempting to stop intensely following Chicago sports for a month or so, at least until the Cubs are mildly threatened in the NL Central. Which hopefully won't happen. Wednesday was one of those days when you easily could have missed all the feels. This will help.

BE AMBIVALENT ABOUT
Bulls management

As of Wednesday, the Bulls' biggest free-agency splash had come in the form of Rajon Rondo, whose well-documented clashes with coaches make it hard to get too excited about him coming to Chicago. Adding Dwyane Wade would be better. Alas, although the Tribune's K.C. Johnson reported that the Bulls were in communication with Wade's representatives, bringing the Chicago-area native into the fold seems unlikely at best. He was expected to meet with the Denver Nuggets, which tells you something about how NBA free agents feel about joining the current Bulls.

BE DISAPPOINTED FOR
All of the Bears

You can put whatever stock you want to in player rankings, but there's something undeniable about the NFL Network's Top 100 list: None of the Bears' peers felt anyone on the current roster is worthy of that lofty status.

Like they've done every prior year, producers of "The Top 100 Players of 2016" asked the league's rank and file to rate the best among them, then the NFL Network's show revealed the top 100 vote-getters in a series of episodes, which culminated Wednesday.

The NFL Network announced the names of the top 10 in advance, and like the other 90 players, no current Bears were among them. Even Pro Bowler Kyle Long was excluded, as was Alshon Jeffery, who ranked 54th in 2014.

No. 90 Matt Forte was the only player on the Bears' 2015 roster who was selected, though the Bears made no offer to him in the offseason and he signed with the N.Y. Jets. None of the Bears' free-agent arrivals made the cut.

BE CONFIDENT IN
Kyle Schwarber

Kyle Schwarber
BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE FILE

There's so much for the Cubs to celebrate this season that you don't need to feel too sorry for them. Especially considering that on Tuesday their entire infield was named to start the All-Star team, which hasn't been done since the St. Louis Cardinals got that honor in 1963, and the Cubs have seven All-Stars total. Yet being able to call on Kyle Schwarber's bat on a team that ranks 15th in MLB in batting average would be mighty nice. Unfortunately, he's still out for the year while rehabbing torn ligaments in his left knee.

"Right now, it's just the strengthening part," Schwarber said Wednesday. "We pretty much got past the first phase, which is range of motion and trying to control swelling. Now that I pretty much got that back, I'm walking on it now. I'm off the crutches. That helped free up the knee, get things working more."

BE HAPPY FOR
Bryan Bickell

Yes, the former Blackhawks forward is a Carolina Hurricane now, and that team finished sixth in the Metropolitan Division last season. But the Stanley Cup champion and his wife are parents again! Bickell and his wife, Amanda, this week welcomed daughter Kinlsee into the family, which includes their 1-year-old daughter Makayla.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S PHIL THOMPSON CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

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BODY2016
JAKE ARRIETA

MARCUS ERIKSSON FOR ESPN THE MAGAZINE BODY ISSUE

Chicago athletes bare it all for ESPN shoot

By Phil Thompson | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Elena Delle Donne had been shy at first while posing for her ESPN the Magazine "Body Issue" shoot, but after a while she was completely comfortable in her own skin—and just her skin.

Jake Arrieta was so focused on getting the best images from his shoot in the Arizona desert that it took a toll on his feet.

"He's the real deal. He put in 110 percent into that shoot ... even to the point his skin was starting to crack on his feet because of the dirt and the dust; it just dries out the skin," said photographer Marcus Eriksson, who shot the Cubs pitcher in March.

ESPN's crew built a baseball mound—to major-league specs—in Arizona City, about an hour's drive southeast of Phoenix.

"Halfway through the shoot [Arrieta is] like, 'So, what can we do to get the cover?' " Eriksson said. ESPN ultimately picked Arrieta for one of the home-subscription covers mailed this week and devoted the newsstand cover (which arrives in stores Friday) to Christen Press, a forward on the U.S. women's soccer team and the Red Stars.

Photographer Carlos Serrao did Press' shoot in an abandoned tennis club, which also had a horse-riding arena, near Los Angeles.

"We needed to find a location that was secluded so there are no looky-loos checking things out," Serrao said. "The look we were going for, imagine her on a soccer pitch somewhere like in Brazil. ... We ended up using the arena for some of the shots because it had like a gravel-dirt thing. Then we set up some of the stuff on the higher hills, like her trapping the ball, etc.

"The tricky thing is you're putting someone in a surreal situation. It's kind of fine line. You're shooting a nude female athlete; you don't want to make it end up looking like naked mud wrestling."

Delle Donne had similar concerns, and Serrao, who also did her shoot in Los Angeles, hired a movement coach with a dancing background to work with her and took some test shots in her underwear.

"So when she first walked in, I was immediately like, 'Hey, what we want to do is show the form and musculature and the physique and everything and keep it authentic. But I don't want to do anything that's overtly sexy or silly,' and she was like, 'Great, I don't want to do that either.' Think of it more like a celebration of the athletic form, like an Olympic statue," Serrao said of Delle Donne, who will compete in Rio with the U.S. women's basketball team.

"She was like, 'Yeah. Yeah.' She was on same vibe as that, so that set the tone of it. So when we started shooting [in the nude] ... there was never any hesitancy."

Delle Donne's set was shot on the roof of an old warehouse and designed as an artistic interpretation of a basketball court, and ESPN editors featured a photo with her kneeling with a basketball.

For Arrieta's cover, the magazine's staff coincidentally picked Eriksson's top choice, which captured Arrieta with his back leg reared up and pointed skyward after a pitch. "It really shows you how flexible he is and also how graceful the pitching motion can be. It almost look like some sort of ballerina or dancing move," Eriksson said.

"It's just powerful, strong, masculine—but at same time has this graceful feel."

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UNLEASHED *at* WORK

OFFICE PETS ARE CUTE, CUDDLY AND GOOD FOR THE WORKPLACE

By Shelbie Lynn Bostedt | REDEYE

If you work at Havas Worldwide in Chicago, your morning "hellos" probably also include a scratch behind the ear. No, the advertising and PR company's employees are not oddly close and OK with strange expressions of PDA. Their office is just one of the many workspaces in Chicago that allow employees to bring their pets to work.

"The people asked, we set some ground rules and let it happen," Havas Chicago Group CEO Paul Marobella said about the decision to open the office up to the animals, who attend meetings, go to company lunches and play pingpong with the team.

According to the American Pet Products Association, 20 percent of companies in the U.S. have adopted pet-friendly policies, and with good reason.

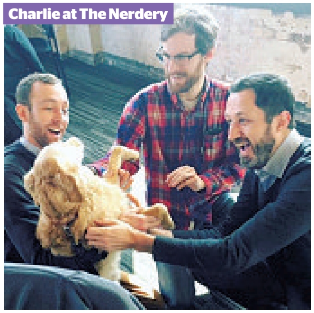
"Pets make our people happy," said Marobella, 46, of Oak Park, whose company's office in River North has 10 to 15 dogs roaming around at any given time. "It's a scientific fact that petting a dog relieves stress, and our employees have access to plenty of dogs on any given day."

Not that having cute pups around the office needs justification, but a 2012 Virginia Commonwealth University study showed that employees who bring dogs to work produced lower levels of cortisol, the stress hormone.

For Havas technology director Michael Uccetta, 34, of River North, bringing his 9-year-old beagle, Moxie, with him to work allowed him to talk to his co-workers more, even if they just wanted to get their dog fix.

"People walk by my desk all day and stop to say hi to her and cheer up their own day," Uccetta said. "She gets that positive attention and socializing, and I don't have to leave her at home."

In that same vein, a 2010 study from Central Michigan University found that having dogs in the workplace leads to more trust between co-workers and a more harmonious and collaborative workspace. And the pets sometimes take on their own office roles.



Charlie at The Nerdery

"Gus is basically just a little intern," Havas search specialist Eric Schrieber, 26, of Lakeview, said of his 2-year-old French bulldog. "[He} basically acts and interacts like any other

‘The Secret Life of Pets’ is an old dog with few new tricks

Lauren Chval
» laurenchval@redeyechicago.com
» @lchval

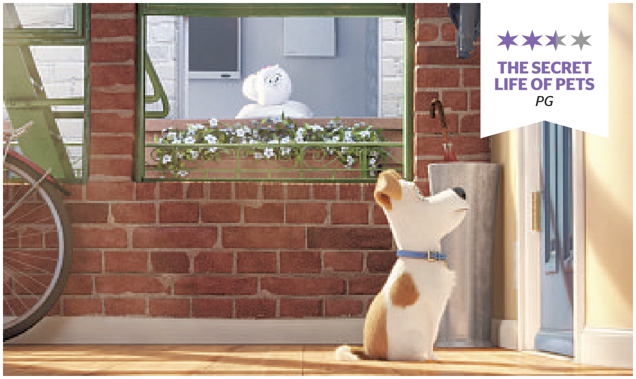
It’s a little odd to hear Louis C.K.’s voice coming out of an animated dog when we’re so used to it going on about hand jobs or the dark pit of human selfishness, but that’s one of the little joys of “The Secret Life of Pets.” You get to hear Louis C.K. yell “Ball!” and there’s nothing sexual about it.

What happens?

Terrier Max (C.K.) is in for a shock when his beloved owner, Katie (Ellie Kemper), brings home a new dog, Duke (Eric Stonestreet). The two engage in a power struggle for alpha dog status that causes them to get picked up by animal control, only to be rescued by psychotic bunny Snowball (Kevin Hart) and his gang of “flushed pets,” or formerly domesticated animals who now have it out for humans. Of course, Max and Duke bond on their harrowing journey home through New York City. Meanwhile, the other pets in Max’s apartment band together to search for and save their lost friend.

What’s good?

In between silly physical comedy gags meant for the kids, “The Secret Life of Pets” engages in genuinely insightful humor regarding human life from the perspective of our animals. “I don’t like to use this phrase because it’s offensive to our kind, but you’re a bad dog,” Max tells Duke. A creepy gang of cats scatters when animal control shows up, shouting, “It’s the po-po!” Even a pet-thrown rager gets laughs when everyone chants, “Chug, chug, chug!” as they watch a dog guzzle from a toilet bowl. The script sets up our common conceptions about animals (dogs are loyal to a fault, cats couldn’t care less about you) but then plays with them in sharp ways. Also, all the voice actors effectively bring their animals to life, but Hart is consistently hilarious.



★★⯪☆
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS
PG

What’s bad?

If it feels like you’ve seen this one before, it’s because the concept and plot aren’t a far cry from a little movie Pixar did over two decades ago called “Toy Story.” What do our toys/pets do when we’re not around? A well-established original is upset by a newcomer who disrupts the status quo, but (spoiler) they learn to love each other over time. “The Secret Life of Pets” is sweet, but it’s not covering any new ground or really that interesting beyond the first half-hour.

Final verdict

This isn’t a kid movie for adults. If you’re trying to score brownie points by taking your niece to a movie, you’ll get a few laughs out of this one, but it’s meant for her, not you.

---

employee in the office. Although the humans here usually don’t lick any body part continuously and aggressively as a form of greeting.”

At The Nerdery, a custom software and business solutions agency, having pets around the office was so important, it was one of the requirements for their new Chicago office space.

“The dogs really become a part of the family,” said the director of The Nerdery’s Chicago branch, Don Durbin, 57, of Winnetka. “Everybody hangs out with them, takes them for walks.”

Two of the most common pup faces around The Nerdery are Sully and Charlie, who belong to humans Kaleb Luhman and Jenny Stetler, respectively. Sully comes in two to three times a week in the summer (nearly every day in the colder months), and Charlie comes to work nearly every day.

“They’re basically our office mascots,” said Stetler, 34, of Wicker Park. “Everybody stops to say hello or offer to take them and play with them for a few minutes.”

Stetler, who works in sales for The Nerdery, sometimes leaves Charlie with her co-workers while she goes out for client meetings. In that way, the office comes together to take care of the pups and each person gets to feel the benefits of having a furry friendly face around.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, taking a dog for a walk can decrease blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and according to the Journal of Experimental Psychology, getting up and taking a walk can boost creativity by 60 percent compared to just sitting at a desk. As if you needed any more reason to have a pup around your desk, it’s basically the perfect recipe for an intellectually stimulated, happy-as-hell and fit-as-a-fiddle office.

> “Pets make our people happy. It’s a scientific fact that petting a dog relieves stress, and our employees have access to plenty of dogs on any given day.”
> —Havas Chicago Group CEO **Paul Marobella**

“It’s just nice to turn around and have him there,” said Luhman, 23, of Oak Park. “Without having to get up and take him outside, I wouldn’t leave my desk. If I have a project that’s giving me a hard time, I can turn to him and refresh my brain or get away from it for a minute.”

At insurance company Insureon, Gunner, a 4-year-old German shepherd-Lab mix, helps the humans of the office relax for a bit.

“He’s someone to take a break with,” said Gunner’s owner, Tanveer Hira, Insureon’s vice president of service engagement. “You turn around, and he’s there to put a smile on your face.”

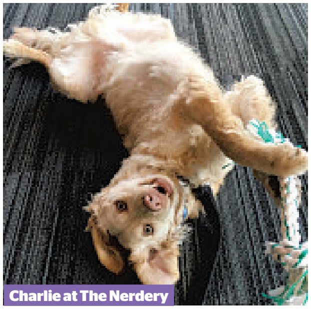
Gunner has been coming to the office for five days a week for most of his life and has strong relationships with everybody in the office, where Hira, 28, of suburban Wheaton, says he’s completely integrated.

“I do get a little jealous,” Hira said.

The benefits of having a dog in the workplace don’t extend only to the employees who see them day to day. While it may be considered cheating to have a cute dog help you sell stuff, it works. For Crosby, a 2-year-old mini-labradoodle, selling booze at Lincoln Park’s Ezra’s is just a part of life.

“We got Crosby a year after Ezra’s opened, and he’s been coming in for most of his life,” said Crosby’s owner, Parker Newman, 30, of Old Town.

The company’s love for pups isn’t limited to allowing Crosby to hang out behind the counter all day. Ezra’s logo is a dog, and the company itself was named after the dog of a business partner. Having a dog-friendly atmosphere allows consumer-based businesses like Ezra’s to bond with their clients more if they get to spend some time gushing about how cute Crosby is.



Charlie at The Nerdery

And having a pet nearby during the workday, like Newman has Crosby close by, helps employees be more present and focused on their work, rather than stressing about what mischief their four-legged kiddos could be getting up to at home, something Uccetta at Havas can relate to over his beagle, Moxie.

“I get more done with her by my side,” Uccetta said. “I don’t have to worry about whether she’s OK at home, if the dog walker was on time. I can work the hours I need to without a countdown to when I need to get home to avoid ‘accidents.’ ”

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Kinmont burger

TAYLOR GLASCOCK PHOTOS FOR REDEYE

worth a trip

Kinmont burger ($13)

Kinmont, 419 W. Superior St. 312-915-0011

By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

I often find myself caught up in "best of" conversations. Where's the best pizza in Chicago? The best taco? The best ice cream? And most recently, the best burger. Up until last week, I pledged allegiance to the beef of Au Cheval alongside most Chicagoans. But then I stumbled upon one of the city's best-kept burger secrets at a seafood restaurant. Yeah, I was skeptical too. But I assure you, Kinmont in River North is serving a severely underrated cheeseburger hidden amongst its lobster rolls and crab hush puppies.

On the surface, Kinmont's burger follows Au Cheval's road map to perfection with two thin patties, a super-soft bun, housemade pickles, messy Dijonnaise and cheese all over. But there are major differences that elevate this patty to top-tier status.

Kinmont chef de cuisine Dennis Gutierrez said the secret ingredient is bone marrow. The fatty, butter-like substance is extracted from bones and injected into a 80/20 lean-fat blend of beef, which is then formed into 3-ounce diner-style patties that are grilled for no more than two minutes. Slices of rich gouda sit between and on top of the patties, and the whole thing is topped with grilled romaine (to achieve that "smoky campfire flavor," Gutierrez said), housemade aioli and sweet and spicy pickles. Diners who need extra protein can opt to add a yolky fried egg for $2 more, but I'd recommend keeping it simple without.

The end result is awesomely decadent but still manageable. For reference, I can only get halfway through an Au Cheval burger before tapping out, but I certainly earned my keep in the Clean Plate Club at Kinmont.

Major bonus points that I very seriously debated publicizing: The burger is available for just $3 with purchase of your first beer during happy hour Tuesday through Friday from 5-7 p.m. Gutierrez recommends going classic with a Miller High Life pairing. "The burger is so rich that you'll want to wash it down with something light," he advised.

@MORGANCOLSEN | MCOLSEN@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

Stand-up for Autism

set the scene

5 CHICAGO SHOWS TO SEE THIS WEEK

By Gwendolyn Purdom | FOR REDEYE

Step away from the Netflix marathon and find your way into one of these local theaters for a belly laugh this week. Your guide to Chicago's affordable and under-the-radar comedy scene awaits. **GWENDOLYN PURDOM IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR.**

THURSDAY

Congrats on Your Success Comedy

Uncharted Books

2620 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"The Nightly Show" regular Dennis Banks, a.k.a. Felonious Munk, headlines this showcase hosted by Bill Bullock with performers Caitlin Checkeroski, Toby McMullen, Charlie Rohrer, Max Friedman, Sean White and Ali Clayton.
7 p.m. Free.

Nick and Gabe: American Champions

Up Comedy Club

230 W. North Ave. 312-662-4562

If the fireworks and assorted grilled meats of the Fourth of July didn't scratch your patriotic itch, this musical sketch revue starring the comedic duo behind "Holiday (Christmas) Show" may do the trick. 10:30 p.m.; doors open at 10 p.m. $12-$17. Tickets: **upcomedyclub.com**

SATURDAY

Bell Hop with special guest Ron Lynch

Virgin Hotel Chicago

203 N. Wabash Ave. 312-940-4400

Ron Lynch of "Bob's Burgers," "Adventure Time" and "Home Movies" fame joins host Ian Abramson to help The A.V. Club celebrate the one-year anniversary of "Bell Hop," a monthly live comedy show. This edition's guests include Fran Hoepfner, Sarah Sherman and more.
9 p.m. Free.

Fearbia

The Playground Theater

3209 N. Halsted St. 773-871-3793

Phobias, fears and all things that give us all the heebie-jeebies are front and center in this spooky sketch show featuring Abby Harvey, Emily Walters and Elizabeth Elston. 10:30 p.m. $10. Tickets: **theplaygroundtheater.com**

SUNDAY

Stand-up for Autism

The Laugh Factory Chicago

3175 N. Broadway 773-327-3175

Comedian Ali Clayton brings her friend Bradley Kent, an adult with autism, on stage to co-host this comedy event that benefits Jewish Child & Family Services and features Pat McGann and other comedians. 7 p.m. $17-$27 online, $20-$30 at the door. Tickets: **laughfactory.com**

Want to see your show featured in Set the Scene? Us too. Email all necessary details to Eat & Drink editor Morgan Olsen at **mcolsen@redeyechicago.com.**

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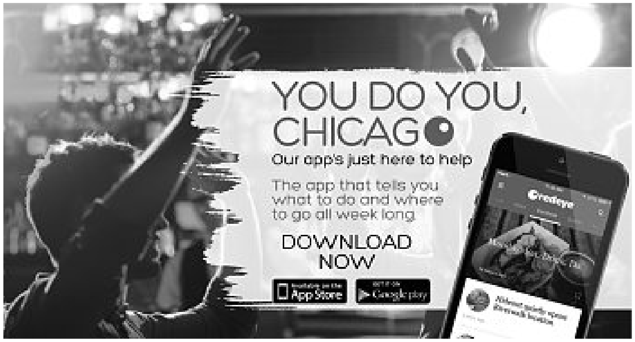

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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7	6	1	5	4	8	9	3	2
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WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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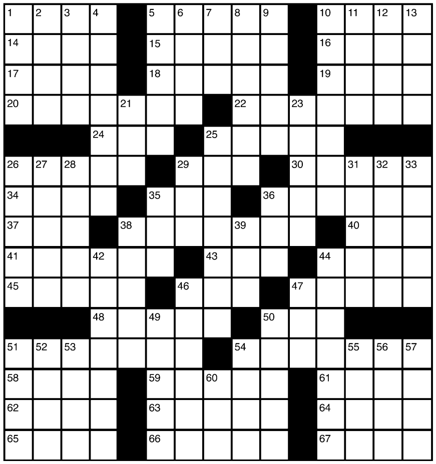
S	T	A	Y	■	S	E	L	L	■	S	T	Y	L	E

ACROSS
1 Donation for the poor
5 Supreme Court duds
10 Exchange
14 Actor Wyle
15 From the East
16 Comic actress Imogene __
17 Ford's 1976 running mate
18 Striped animal
19 Film holder
20 Orator
22 Skill in handling a situation
24 __ as a beet
25 Andrews or Christie
26 Steve or Tim
29 Singer Tormé
30 Whimsical garden feature
34 Three-__ sloth
35 Knight's title
36 Tried out
37 One __ million; prized friend
38 Pad under a beverage glass
40 "If I __ a Hammer"
41 Decrease
43 Suffix for velvet or eight
44 Salami shop
45 Cornered
46 Bread variety
47 Trigger or Mister Ed
48 Flower holders
50 __ Ripken Jr.
51 More than a few
54 Chooses
58 Microwave, e.g.
59 Can wrapper
61 Hoodwink
62 Encounter
63 Coral island
64 Encourage
65 Catch sight of
66 Good buys
67 Pencil's center

DOWN
1 No ifs, __ or buts
2 Stunt pilot's maneuver
3 Boy or man
4 Like a fleeced sheep
5 Leveled, as a building
6 Dare, in France
7 Overalls part
8 Gave an __ to; berated
9 Slow crawler
10 Window covers
11 Misfortunes
12 Highest cards
13 Lacking vivid color
21 Barbie's beau
23 African nation
25 Football shirts
26 Leaning
27 Recluse
28 Rent long-term
29 Actress Farrow
31 Each __; one another
32 Lunch & dinner
33 Albert & Fisher
35 Male child
36 Morning hour
38 Fragrant wood
39 Peg for Tiger
42 14 x 5
44 Very sad
46 Tell, as a story
47 Actor Linden
49 Coleslaw, e.g.
50 Jail rooms
51 "__ Like It Hot"
52 12/24 & 12/31
53 Quayle or Gore
54 Broker's advice
55 Apple's center
56 Caesar's robe
57 Snow toy
60 Feathery scarf



TODAY'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

- » Actor **Dylan Sprayberry**, 18
- » Singer **Maddie Marlow**, 21
- » Music producer **Alesso**, 25
- » Actor **Jack Whitehall**, 28
- » Rapper **Cassidy**, 34
- » Skater **Michelle Kwan**, 36
- » Actor **Allen Payne**, 48
- » Comedian **Jim Gaffigan**, 50
- » Drummer **Ringo Starr**, 76

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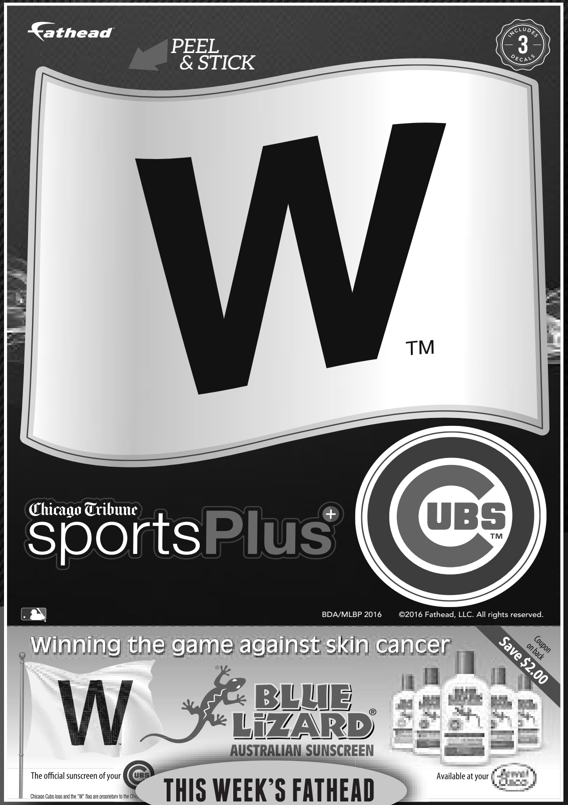
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AP

Changing gears

After a complete host overhaul last year, the popular BBC car show "Top Gear" is seeing yet another alteration to its main billing. Following the departure of co-host and U.K. radio personality Chris Evans, which he announced Monday, **Matt LeBlanc** will host the program alone next season, according to **variety.com**. Season 23 contributors Chris Harris, Eddie Jordan, Rory Reid and Sabine Schmitz are expected to return as well. Evans and LeBlanc, who replaced longtime hosts Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May last season, were not particularly well-received by critics or fans. Let's hope LeBlanc does a little bit better riding solo.

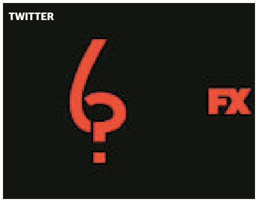
THE QUOTE

"How dare you bully a woman who has done nothing but try to entertain people like you. Her crime, according to you, is growing older in a way you don't approve of. Who are you to approve of anything? What you are doing is vile, damaging, stupid and cruel."

—Actress and social activist **Rose McGowan**, in an essay at **thr.com**, responding to Variety film critic Owen Gleiberman's column criticizing Renee Zellweger's looks in the upcoming film "Bridget Jones's Baby." Gleiberman bemoaned Zellweger's alleged plastic surgery, saying that it marred her "Bridget Jones" character. McGowan's essay retorts that Gleiberman's piece "reeks of status-quo male privilege." She adds that she has experienced similar bullying from male pundits and fans before, and that she wants to "STOP the brainwashing Hollywood and the media have for too long gotten away with." Tell 'em, girl.

THE DIGIT

$3.3B That's how much box office revenue Scarlett Johansson has generated throughout her career, making her the highest-grossing actress of all time, according to a roundup by **boxofficemojo.com**. Johansson placed 10th on the overall list of top box-office earners (Harrison Ford is No. 1, with a total gross of $4.8 billion), but she's one of only nine women in the Top 50 and the only woman in the Top 10. You go, ScarJo, but this looks like yet another sign that Hollywood still has a lot of work to do when it comes to gender equality.



TWITTER

HOT DATE

Sept. 14

Only two more months 'til we get more of our favorite weekly horror story! The sixth season of FX's "American Horror Story" will premiere at 9 p.m. Sept. 14, according to **ew.com**. The famously spooky anthology show has yet to announce a theme for the upcoming season, though its logo was revealed last week and Season 5 regular Cheyenne Jackson (who played fashion designer Will Drake) has confirmed that he will be returning.

'Wait For It' no more

Broadway's hottest ticket is about to get some new faces. According to **deadline.com**, Brandon Victor Dixon and Lexi Lawson will join the cast of "Hamilton" later this summer in the roles of Aaron Burr and Eliza Schuyler Hamilton, respectively. They're replacing Leslie Odom Jr. and Phillipa Soo, who will be leaving the production Saturday alongside show creator and star Lin-Manuel Miranda. Dixon is a two-time Tony nominee—most recently for his current role in the musical "Shuffle Along"—and Lawson previously starred as Vanessa in the national tour of Miranda's first musical, "In the Heights." We can't wait for you to blow us all away, guys.

WANT MORE DIRT? Oh, we've got dirt. Get the scoop on your favorite musicians, actors and reality TVers all day long at **redeyechicago.com.**